



Whole Child Health Alliance  
Quarterly Resource Scan | Q3

**Contents**

**About the Quarterly Resource Scan** ..... 1

    Scope ..... 1

**Resources** ..... 2

    Federal Guidance ..... 2

    Policy Briefs ..... 2

    Research and Reports ..... 2

    Toolkits ..... 5

    Blog Posts ..... 5

    Webinars ..... 5

**About the Quarterly Resource Scan**

The Whole Child Health Alliance (“Alliance”) envisions a future in which all children can experience optimal health and reach their full potential. To achieve this vision, we believe that organizations that pay for and provide services for children must coordinate and collaborate to meet the developmental, social, physical, and mental health needs of children and youth – which includes supporting the development of positive relationships between children and youth and their caregivers.

One key strategy to advance this vision is to build out the concept of whole child health by researching, identifying and describing the key elements of whole child health. The goal of the Quarterly Resource Scan is to catalog new research, analysis, guidance and tools that advance the key elements of whole child health. By doing so, we aim to enhance our members’ understanding of the latest policies and practices that advance whole child health, which will, in turn, inform the Alliance’s priorities and strategies.

**Scope**

The Quarterly Resource Scan will be curated to include publications that discuss policies and/or practices that advance the [Key Elements of Whole Child Health](#) or other topics that are closely related to whole child health (e.g., child-related Medicaid/Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) policy). The Quarterly Resource Scan will include peer-reviewed studies, policy reports and analyses, case studies, relevant toolkits, and selected policy guidance released by federal agencies – all with relevance to whole child health. The Quarterly Resource Scan will not include federal or state legislation or press releases relevant to whole child health. Those resources will be included in the Alliance’s quarterly newsletter.

## Resources

### ***Federal Guidance***

#### **[Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\) Best Practices for Adhering to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment \(EPSDT\) Requirements](#)**

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. September 2024  
CMS released a State Health Official (SHO) Letter that reinforces the EPSDT statutory and regulatory requirements and provides guidance and best practices for meeting the requirements, as required by [section 11004 of Title I of Division A of Bipartisan Safer Communities Act \(BSCA\) \(P.L. 117–159\)](#). The SHO also discusses best practices for serving children and youth with behavioral health needs. Within each section, there is a summary of the federal requirements and recommended practices to implement the requirements.

### ***Policy Briefs***

#### **[Braiding Medicaid Funds to Support Person Centered Care: Lessons from Medi-Cal](#)**

Center for Health Care Strategies Foundation August 2024

*Tuyen Tran*

Based on interviews with health care and social service organizations in California, this brief describes approaches that can be employed to effectively leverage a braided health care funding model to improve integrated, person-centered care. The brief outlines how organizations blend Medicaid and non-Medicaid funding sources, discusses how to mitigate the challenges and risks of braiding funding and identifies opportunities for managed care plans and specialty mental health plans to simplify the braiding process for organizations.

#### **[Trailblazing the Future of Youth Peer Support: A Youth Driven Policy Guide](#)**

Mental Health America August 2024

*Dionne Regis, Trace Terrell, Brandon Bond, et al.*

This brief, informed by the work of Mental Health America's Youth Policy Accelerator members and a national survey of individuals who work in youth support, outlines the importance of youth peer support programs. The brief includes policy recommendations that aim to increase access to peer support programs for children and young adults.

### ***Research and Reports***

#### **[New Medicaid Opportunities to Support Youth Leaving Incarceration: Building Community Well-Being and Advancing Prevention Efforts](#)**

Centers for Health Care Strategies September 2024

*Elissa Gelber, Liz Buck, Ruby Goyal-Carkeek, and Jade Kissi*

The brief provides guidance to states on how to leverage new federal policy opportunities to address the health care needs of youth who are involved in the justice system. It also assesses the health care needs of this population, outlines the new federal requirements for providing Medicaid coverage for



youth who are incarcerated, and describes best practices and next steps for implementation. The brief provides three strategies for states to improve the health and well-being of youth who are involved with the justice system:

- Foster multisector collaboration
- Create meaningful partnerships with the community supports
- Expand and utilize services outside of the justice system

### **Public Health Interventions to Address Digital Determinants of Children's Health and Wellbeing**

The Lancet

September 2024

*Louise Holly, MSc, Professor Sandro Demaio, PhD, Professor Ilona Kickbusch, PhD*

In this Viewpoint article, the authors argue that use of technology and engagement with the digital environment should be considered determinants of health for children. The brief describes three public health interventions that aim to delay social media use among young children, reduce social media use among all children, and mitigate the consequences associated with social media use.

### **Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary & Trends Report: 2013 - 2023**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

August 2024

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary & Trends Report: 2013 – 2023 details the ten-year trends and two-year changes in behavior among high school students within the United States. The specific behavioral health topics studied include sexual behavior, substance use, mental health and suicidal thoughts and actions. The authors suggest several recommendations to improve mental health for adolescents, including mental health promotion in schools, increased access to education, and increased school connectedness among students.

### **Health Equity in Focus: Maternal and Infant Health Disparities Data Brief**

America's Health Rankings, United Health Foundation

August 2024

The Maternal and Infant Health Data Brief assesses maternal and infant health disparities by race/ethnicity, education, and income against 14 measures of maternal and infant health. The authors intend for this report to initiate discussion among community leaders, public health professionals, policymakers, and the media to reduce gaps in maternal and infant health care. State-by-state profiles are available [here](#).

### **Community Health Workers: Bridge to Pediatric Mental Health Equity**

Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

August 2024

*Eve-Lynn Nelson PhD, Stephanie Punt PhD, Robert Stiles MA, MPH, Sharon E. Cain MD*

This article describes two approaches to address the social drivers of mental health needs of children and families, including a clinician-led model and a community team model. The article also discusses future opportunities to coordinate across both types of models, align with federal approaches to address social drivers of health, and integrate community health workers.

### Parents Under Pressure: The U.S Surgeon General's Advisory on the Mental Health and Well-Being of Parents

Office of the United States Surgeon General

August 2024

This advisory from the Office of the Surgeon General calls attention to parental stress and mental health. The Advisory reviews literature on the topic and provides recommendations for how the government, employers, parents, community organizations, schools, health systems, researchers, and family members can reduce stressors for parents.

### Adverse Childhood Experiences: Health Care Utilization and Expenditures in Adulthood

Health Affairs

July 2024

*Thomas M. Selden, Didem M. Bernard, Sandra L. Decker, et al.*

This study used data from the 2021 Medical Expenditure Panel Survey- Household Component to estimate how adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) impact healthcare utilization and spending among adults. The findings show that spending and utilization was higher among adults with ACEs.

### Financing the "Village": Establishing a Sustainable Financial System for Child Behavioral Health

Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America

July 2024

*Chuan Mei Lee MD, MA, Robert M. Kaplan PhD, Suzie C. Nelson MD, et al.*

This article describes various pediatric behavioral health payment models as well as the advantages and disadvantages of each model. Ultimately, researchers argue that value-based care will improve quality of care and lower costs.

### Food as Medicine Survey Findings: How Anti-Hunger Organizations Partner with Health Care Providers to Address Food Insecurity

Food Research & Action Center (FRAC)

July 2024

FRAC administered a survey to evaluate how anti-hunger organizations partner with the health care sector. The survey found that many state and local anti-hunger organizations have partnered with providers to ensure that patients are receiving access to nutrition resources though there is no standard model for partnership. Organizations have faced challenges to pursuing such partnerships, particularly related to staff capacity and funding. The report outlines key areas for advancement.

### The State of Mental Health in America

Mental Health America

July 2024

The State of Mental Health in America report outlines the prevalence of mental health conditions, discusses barriers to mental health access, and describes the mental health workforce in the United States. The report helps to create a snapshot of mental health status for youth and adults and tracks changes in the prevalence of mental health conditions among this population.

## Toolkits

### [Providing Multi-Year Continuous Enrollment to Medicaid and CHIP Populations: State Toolkit](#)

State Health & Value Strategies

July 2024

This toolkit provides guidance to states that intend to utilize section 1115 waivers to provide continuous enrollment to Medicaid and CHIP enrollees, particularly for children. The toolkit provides evidence in support of continuous enrollment, discusses the considerations for certain populations and potential costs, and describes requirements for program evaluation.

## Blog Posts

### [Strengthening Health Care-Community Partnerships with ROI Insights to Better Address Social Needs](#)

Center for Health Care Strategies

August 2024

*Tyler Shives*

The post discusses how health care organizations and community-based organizations can use HealthBegins' Return on Investment (ROI) [Calculator for Partnerships to Address Social Determinants of Health](#) to address patients' social needs. The ROI Calculator aims to help community-based organizations and health care partners to formulate a financial plan to fund social services for individuals with complex health needs.

## Webinars and Presentations

### [Introduction to Work on Justice-Involved Youth](#)

Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC)

September 2024

*Melissa Schober and Melinda Becker Roach*

This MACPAC presentation describes the federal Medicaid policy context applying to children/youth who are incarcerated and provides an analysis of the current state of health care for this population. The presentation also outlines next steps, which include a presentation on interview findings on opportunities and challenges related to providing services for incarcerated children/youth and continued monitoring of CMS guidance and state legislation on this topic.

### [Introduction to Work on Residential Services for Youth with Behavioral Health Needs](#)

MACPAC

September 2024

*Melissa Schober*

This MACPAC presentation discusses MACPAC's work on residential services with youth with behavioral health needs. It provides the historical policy context and discusses future work in this area. The presentation also outlines the types of residential treatment facilities and how the facilities are used by youth enrolled in Medicaid.



### Enhancing Medicaid Equity Through Health Literacy: Practical Strategies

Center for Health Care Strategies

September 2024

This webinar discussed opportunities to promote health equity through health literacy. The panel featured Medicaid stakeholders, including state agencies, plans and community members, who discussed how states can promote health literacy through increased communication, the use of national cultural and language access standards, and community engagement.

### Launching Lifelong Health by Improving Health Care for Children, Youth, and Families

National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine

September 2024

In this virtual briefing, the Committee on Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Youth through Health Care System Transformation presented the findings from their report entitled “Launching Lifelong Health by Improving Health Care for Children, Youth, and Families”. For more information please see the [webinar recording](#) and [slide deck](#).